

GRANDMA CARR'S DISHES.

Many Claimants for China Buried a Hundred Years Ago.

Here's a pretty question for the lawyers: A hundred years or more ago some valuable china dishes were buried by a family in what is now Otsego county. The land passed into other hands, and in the course of time—a few weeks ago—a farm hand, plowing in the field, found the precious relics. Many were broken by the plow, but a great many were saved, and they are valuable, for collectors of old china are anxious to get hold of this particular collection.

But the trouble is, says the Utica Observer, that there are many claimants for the china. First, there is the hired man who was holding the plow which uncovered the rare old relics. On the principle that the finder is first owner, the dishes belong to him. Then there is the man who rented the farm, and for whom the discoverer was working. On the principle that the servant's time belongs to his employer, and also that he is entitled to whatever the farm produces, the dishes belong to him.

But along comes the man who owns the farm, and who rented it to the man who hired the chap who made the discovery, and he claims ownership of the dishes because he is the owner of the farm, and while the lessee is entitled to the crops he has no claim to what may be produced from underground. The fourth claimant is to be found in an heir (or heirs) of the Carrs, who buried the dishes. It is presumed that they will find difficulty in setting up a claim, for it will not be easy to prove that these were the dishes Grandma Carr took such peculiar care of, and so the other claimants may tell them to go to and prove title. It is also suggested that the state may get a hand in the middle, on the ground that the unclaimed property of deceased persons reverts to the commonwealth, thus making a fifth claimant for the coveted platters, plates, turquoise ad teacups.

AN ACTRESS TAMES A MOUSE.

While an Invalid at Indianapolis She So Amuses Herself.

Miss Flora Mitchell, an actress, who has been confined to the Homestead hospital in Marion, where she has been an invalid for five weeks, says the Indianapolis News, has tamed a mouse. For more than a week the mouse has been almost a constant companion of the actress, who says that it has greatly helped her to preserve her cheerfulness.

The first week Miss Mitchell was confined to her room, she noticed the occasional presence of the animal, and being lonely began to lay bread crumbs and other mouse food where it would be handy for the little creature. Soon it became bolder and after a few days it would come near the bed and eat the mites of bread and meat almost as soon as they were dropped by the hands of the sick woman.

She gradually began to reach toward the animal until finally she touched it and stroked its furry coat. It has never shown the least fear, and about a week ago Miss Mitchell picked it up and allowed it to run at will over her hands and lap. From that time she has not had the least trouble in picking it up. In fact, it will run toward her and seems to delight in being fondled. It makes not attempt to bite her, but when others attempt to fondle it there is trouble at once.

HADN'T ENLISTED AS A BIRD.

Irishman Puts in a Protest Against Soldiering in Tree-Tops.

Maj. Waller, of the United States Marine corps, tells a good story illustrating the wit of one of the marines under his command in Samar, says the Washington Star. This particular marine was an Irishman, who never failed to have an apt reply ready for any occasion. The marines were cutting their way through some very tough undergrowth, which called into play all the athletic training of the Americans. The marine in his endeavors to get through the undergrowth had been executing a series of evolutions never met with under any other conditions. Finally, as there were suspicious noises ahead, Maj. Waller ordered him to climb a tree and see if he could make out anything ahead. This order was complied with, but not without a protest.

"I don't mind enlisting for a Rocky mountain goat," protested the marine, "but I'll be dumbed if I thought I was enlisting for a bird."

But he flew up the tree as readily as if he had wings, and was soon down again to report what he had seen in his flying trip.

PUTTING IT PLAINLY.

The Young Man and His Future Father-in-Law.

The old gentleman didn't want the young gentleman to marry the young lady, the young lady being the old gentleman's daughter.

So when the young gentleman came on the all-important mission, the old gentleman set his face against the young gentleman.

"No, sir," said he, with angry emphasis, "you cannot have my daughter."

"But I want her," urged the young gentleman, "and what is some consideration in the count, she wants me."

"That makes no difference, sir; you can't have her."

"That means, I presume, that you want me to give her up?"

"Exactly."

The young gentleman, says the London Tit-Bits, took a hitch in himself.

"Do you think I am going to do it?" he asked, in a tone which did not strike the old gentleman as altogether submissive.

"I do."

"Well, no wonder you don't want me for a son-in-law if you think I'm that kind of a fellow. I don't blame you at all! I wouldn't have that kind of a son-in-law myself, even if sons-in-law were going at a premium. But, my dear sir, I'm not that kind. I want your daughter for my wife, and I'm going to have her; she wants me for a husband; I have no objection to you as a father-in-law, and she rather admires you as a father. Therefore I am warranted in joining the combination, and if you want to act ugly, why, we will, as dutiful children, humor your whim, and patch it up somehow with the friends of the family, who will be wanting to know what is the matter with you, anyhow. See?"

And the old gentleman had wisdom enough to understand the situation exactly.

EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.

The One Investment Jones Made Which Proved Profitable.

Jones' wife has long had a serene contempt for Jones' idea as to the value of money. One of his many hobbies was books, and every penny Jones could spare, or thought he could spare, found its way into the palm of the bookseller. One day, says the New York Post, he started from home with \$12 with which to purchase shirts, having been notified by Mrs. Jones that unless he returned with the shirts he need never again seek his home. Jones set out bravely, but in some strange way found himself in a book auction room within an hour, and without one shirt.

Two hours later all the shirt money was gone, and Jones was wondering how to get home with four books under his arm and explain away the shirt dealer. When he reached home he disposed the books upon the shelves, so that they should be lost, as it were, among their kith and kin. One of the volumes was an obsolete work of information, very quaint and certainly worth more than the 40 cents Jones paid for it. Fortune favored him in the matter of the shirts. Mrs. Jones never once asked him whether he had bought them, and within a few days he managed to smuggle in six shirts, and the incident was apparently closed.

But one day an incident in the march of the world's events made the 40-cent book a treasure. Jones had at hand in eminently desirable shape the information only obtainable otherwise by ransacking a great library. Promptly did Jones sit him down and write a long valuable article by the aid of the book, and in a fortnight he proudly laid a substantial check in Mrs. Jones' hand and told her how he had made it out of a half dozen shirts.

On the College President.

President Tucker, of Dartmouth college, is "telling one on himself." In fact, he avows that the entire story is a little too personal to be enjoyed. Last summer he went to a Maine town for a short rest and boarded with a farmer who was in the habit of taking a few summer guests into his house to help "lift the mortgage." Some time ago the president received a letter from his former landlady asking for his patronage during the coming summer. "There are several little matters that I desire changed should my family decide to pass the coming summer at your house," wrote President Tucker in reply. "We don't like the maid, Mary. Moreover, we do not think a sty so near the house is sanitary." And this is what he received in reply: "Mary has went. We hain't hed no hogs sense you went away last September."

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